

IRAN NEWS Felicitates Nowruz
(New Year) and Wish Its Readers A
Happy New Year. The Next Issue
Will Hit the News-Stands On
Saturday April 3

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2 DOMESTIC

No Power Capable of
Defeating IRGC Forces



> SEE PAGE 2

Zarif Scolds Shameless Suppliers of Saddam's WMDs

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign minister has blasted the Western countries that provided former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein with deadly chemicals, but now "care not to remember" his massacre of Iraqi people with the same weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

"March 16 is the 33rd anniversary of the chemical carnage in Halabja," Zarif tweeted. "Some care not to remember—those in the west who provided Saddam with the deadly chemicals," he added. "Over 5,000 innocent civilians were gassed to death. Still want to talk about 'malign regional behavior'?" Shameless," Zarif said, referring to certain Western countries who are now accusing Iran of showing "malign regional behaviour" despite their own track record.

Some 5,000 people were killed and another 10,000 were injured in the chemical massacre launched by Saddam on his own citizens. Saddam never tolerated the large minority group and killed many of them during his reign. But the Halabja bombing marked a sharp increase in the number of fatalities of the anti-Kurdish crackdown. It, however, encouraged Kurds to help later efforts to topple Saddam.

Iran continued to offer its support to the oppressed minority group after the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988.

Home-Made COVID-19 Vaccine "Fakhrizadeh" Unveiled



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has unveiled a new COVID-19 vaccine developed by the Defense Ministry's research center formerly headed by nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, who was assassinated in a suspected Israeli-linked terror attack late last year.

The first phase in the human trial of the vaccine, dubbed Fakhra, was launched during a ceremony in Tehran on Tuesday, with Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami and Health Minister Saeed Namaki in attendance.

Fakhra was named to commemorate Fakhrizadeh, who played a leading role in the vaccine project as the head of the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research (SPND) prior to his assassination on November 27, 2020, near Tehran in a terrorist operation apparently linked to the Israeli regime.

The new Iranian COVID-19 vaccine was administered to the son of Fakhrizadeh.

The official in charge of the vaccine's production said the research and development process began last March and it involved cell culture, inoculation, proliferation, isolation and purification, and inactivation and formulation.

Later, he added, the vaccine was tested on more than 650 animals from different species of mice, rabbits, guinea pigs and monkeys.

The design and construction of a factory for the vaccine's mass production has started, he said, expressing hope that it will enter the production phase in summer.

Speaking at Tuesday's event, Namaki said in the spring, the Islamic Republic will become one of the most important and best vaccine manufacturers in the world.

He added that the Iran-Cuba COVID-19 vaccine is the first vaccine that will be mass produced, followed by the CovIran Barekat, Razi COV-Pars and Fakhra vaccines, respectively.

"Today is a day of pride and reliance on indigenous knowledge. As an immunologist and the health minister, I testify that the method of producing vaccines in Iran is in accordance with the most scientific methods in the world.... The Fakhra vaccine's tests on animal models have proven extremely effective and the human trials begin today," Namaki said.

"I am proud to announce that the Islamic Republic, which has been under sanctions and subjected to oppression by those who deprived patients of medicine and lied, shines as one of the leading countries in the management of the coronavirus [pandemic] in the world," he added.

In addition to developing domestic vaccines, Iran has imported reliable foreign vaccines.

So far, a total of 1,260,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been imported to the country from Russia, China, India and Cuba, according to Alireza Raiesi, the spokesman for the National Headquarters for Managing and Fighting the Coronavirus.

Meanwhile later the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) said that health defenders have worked honestly since the outbreak of the coronavirus.

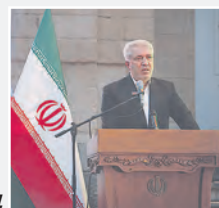
Speaking at a ceremony honoring scientific elites and health defenders and unveiling the coronavirus rapid diagnosis kit held at Baqiyatallah University in Tehran, Major-General Hossein Salami added: "The devoted warriors of Iran in health created many honors in the last 2 years."

IRGC Chief Commander said: "Today, it is a great honor to be among the defenders of health. Greetings to all the dear martyrs in the field of health in Iran, especially to my colleagues in Baqiyatallah Hospital."

See Page 7

4 DOMESTIC

Foreign Envoys Urged to
Reflect Iran's Realities



> SEE PAGE 4

ViewPoint By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Last Editorial of the Century Which Passed

There have been a few days that I have been pondering how I pass my hours of life and how I have passed 1399, the last year of the 14th century of solar hijra, and how I will begin the first year of the 15 century of solar hijra (1400). In the Holy Quran which is the main book of Muslims there is a chapter which has been descended by God to the great Prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) whose name is Al-Asr (the Afternoon; epoch; pressure) and is the 103rd chapter of the Book. In this chapter it has been said, "By (the Token of) Time (through the ages), verily Man is in loss, except such as have Faith, and do righteous deeds, and (join together) in the mutual teaching of Truth, and of Patience and Constancy."

During the early days of Islam, people used to recite this chapter when they wanted to bid farewell to each other. Almighty God in the Holy Quran has sworn to all periods of time and has sworn to the dawn, morning, day, night, breakfast time and even He has sworn to early morning several times. In a hadith (tradition) which has been quoted from the Sixth Imam of Shiites Imam Sadeq (AS) he has said that "Asr" means exit and the days of Re-Appearance of Hazrat Mahdi (AS), the 12th Imam of Shiites.

And some people also believe that "Asr" means the era of emergence of Islam and some people have defined it based on the lexical meaning of the word which means extract and pressure because pressures cause spoiling of reasoning, and men's efforts and initiatives but it is closer to the reason that we take "Asr" as the extract of existence, namely, a perfect human.

It should be acknowledged that material damage is repairable but damage in humanity is the highest and biggest damage. Inviting others to the right, may have bitter consequences that one should welcome it with patience and resistance.

Fakhr Razi is one of the most famous interpreters of the Holy Quran and is Sunni. He says, "Man in the world is like an ice seller that any moment his asset is melting down and he should sell his commodity as soon as possible otherwise he will face loss." Although inviting people to the right and patience is of the good deeds but due to its importance it has been separately mentioned. Although patience and resistance are also right and include it, it has been mentioned separately.

With a glance at verses of the Holy Quran, it takes us to this essential point that the world is a market where all people offer their lives, capabilities and talents, and sale of the commodity in this market is mandatory. Regarding this issue, Hazrat Ali (AS), the first Imam of Shiites, says, "Man's breathing is a step towards his death. So man any moment loses his wealth (life), and we cannot stop passage of our lives and capabilities. Whether we want it or not." See Page 7

Occupying U.S. Forces Urged To Leave Syria

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's permanent ambassador to the United Nations says all American forces that are currently occupying parts of Syria must immediately leave the Arab country.

Majid Takht-Ravanchi made the remarks in a Monday address to the United Nations Security Council, during which he emphasized that the sole solution to the crisis in Syria would be a peaceful one conforming to the international law.

He stressed that all foreign forces that are present in Syria without the Damascus government's approval, particularly the American troops that are occupying parts of Syria, must leave the country as soon as possible.

"The Syrian people do not accept continued occupation of their soil or violation of their country's sovereignty and the international community should not concede to it either, because it contravenes the most basic principles of the international law," he said.

See Page 7

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President Unveils National Projects in 4 Provinces

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated national projects worth 14,186,000,000 tomans developed by Energy Ministry in Tehran, Qazvin, Gilan and Mazandaran provinces.

In a video conference, President Rouhani ordered the launch of wastewater treatment plant of west Tehran, Nohob damn in Qazvin, great water treatment plant in Gilan, wastewater treatment plant in Someh Sara, the steam section of Caspian Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Plant in Mazandaran and wastewater treatment plant in Pardis County, Tehran.

Wastewater treatment plant of west Tehran is one of the greatest treatment plants in Iran which is built with the highest environmental standards and can generate 6 megawatt of electricity.

No Power Capable of Defeating IRGC Forces

TEHRAN (MNA) – Courageous forces of IRGC have always proved that no power can defeat them as they’ve always stood against global arrogance, Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces said, felicitating IRGC forces on its national day.

Addressing the chief commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami in a letter, Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri offered congratulations to the personnel of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on the birthday anniversary of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and the National Day of Guards Corps.

After passing 43 years from the establishment of IRGC, today, it is known to everyone that not only the courageous IRGC forces have always stood against arrogant powers of the world, but also they have been present in all scenes of defending the achievements and values of the Islamic movement, Bagheri said.

Relying on God and with the support of the heroic nation of Iran, IRGC forces have



always proved that no power can defeat these beloved forces, he added.

He went on to say that today, IRGC has both the power of aggression and the power of resistance; it means that they can attack the enemy’s centers of threat in any size, with any scale, and in any intensity.

Seizure of British Royal Navy warship in Iranian waters, downing the spy drone of the terrorist regime of United States, and the capacity to destroy the Zionist regime reveal the fact that these are not illusions, but a fact that has been realized by the will and faith of the Revolutionary Guards, he noted.

“I call on all IRGC forces to neutralize the psychological operations and media war of the enemies, strengthen the defense our capacities, upgrade the deterrent power of the county in the field and missile programs,” he stressed.

European States Support JCPOA In Words, Not in Practice



TEHRAN - Chairman of the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, in a meeting with the Danish ambassador to Tehran, said that the European countries only supported the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal known as the JCPOA in words, not in practice.

In a meeting with the Danish Ambassador to Iran Jasper War, Mojtaba Zonnour said that the Law passed by Iran’s Majlis dubbed as “Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions and Protect Iranian Nation’s Interests” should be implemented.

He also said: “Regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the Islamic Republic of Iran fulfilled all its obligations, which have been confirmed in several reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).”

Zonnour also said: “However, the other members of the JCPOA did not fulfill any of their obligations, and with the withdrawal of the Trump administration from the agreement, European countries only supported the agreement in words, not in practice.”

The Danish ambassador to Tehran said: “Denmark has never followed the policy of maximum pressure of Trump administration, and Denmark is one of the countries that have strongly supported the implementation of the JCPOA.”

Iran Successful in Thwarting U.S. Desperate Struggles

TEHRAN (MNA) – Government Spokesman Ali Rabiei says the Islamic Republic has been triumphant in warding off the United States’ vicious plots against the Iranian nation.

Addressing the last press conference of the current Iranian year (ends on March 20) on Tuesday, Rabiei pointed to the challenges the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S.’ economic terrorism created for the Iranian nation in the past year.

He said, “Not only did the United States fail to isolate and weaken Iran [in the past year], but we, on the other hand, managed to lead Washington to moral isolation and legal condemnation in the international arena, such as the sessions of the UN General Assembly and the International Court of Justice in The Hague.”

The government spokesman noted that the government and the people have had a relatively difficult year, adding, “The effects of sanctions and the economic war reached their peak this year.”

He said, “The government is well aware that the economic war and its association with the coronavirus pandemic has put a great deal of pressure on many people and is doing its best to alleviate such challenges as much as possible.”

Rabiei pointed out, “Today, we can say that all the efforts of the ill-wishers who sought the collapse of the Iranian establishment and the destruction of people’s lives are coming to an end.”

He stressed that the government has done everything in its power to counter the impacts of COVID-19 in the field of health and people’s welfare.

“We have made great strides in foreign policy over the past year,” he said, adding, “We have not only defeated the former U.S. regime’s unprecedented pressure, but we have also stood firm in this path and will continue our strides.”

The government spokesman added, “We are confident that in the coming months, the U.S. government will have no choice but to submit to the global peace process and end pressure on Iran.”

Rabiei once again reiterated Iran’s call on all regional countries for collective effort to secure peace and friendship and to resolve disputes in a friendly way.

U.S. Intervention Destabilizing Middle East



TEHRAN (IRNA)- Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Tuesday doubled down the U.S. intervention in the Middle East, underlining that it is the source of the highest level of insecurity and instability in the region.

Speaking in Tehran Dialogue Forum 2021, Zarif said that the U.S. malign activity in the region wasn’t limited to military intervention.

“U.S. economic war against Iran has consequences, including hurdles in fighting the Coronavirus pandemic in Iran,” the top diplomat added.

“Iran is ready to hold talks with all its neighbors and there is no need for aliens to outline the future of the region,” Zarif went on to say.

Highlighting the necessity of dialogue among nations for human, social and economic development, he emphasized on Iran’s initiative for the region, called Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE).

“There’s no doubt that prolonged dangerous international interference in the region is a primary problem, as the region has been subject to geopolitical plans by trans-regional players during the past five centuries,” the Foreign Minister opined.

He explained that reports by the U.S. agencies that it had spent seven trillion dollars for endless wars and military intervention in less than two decades in ME proved that Washington has made the region the most unstable and the most insecure spot in the world.

He also said, “We, in West Asia, were used to always argue that the time is sensitive but now I can state that If there is oNE consensus among experts about the current state of affairs in world politics it is that time is sensitive, context is complex and uncertainty widespread.”

He added, “The most obvious change that we can see in the world is transiting to a new multipolarity. It should be argued here that the vertical approach to international relations does not best serve to explain what is happening. We need to adopt a horizontal approach as well: meaning that we are experiencing a new world order in which there are equally diversified centers of powers; a world that there no just one superpower dominating and dictating.”

The forum was held online and senior officials from several countries are attending the event. Foreign Ministers of Turkey and Afghanistan will also give a speech in the forum.

No One Has the Right to Distort the Realities in the Country

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that the country is facing a war, and the fact is that whoever does not say this has denied the reality, noting that no one has the right to distort the realities in the country.

Speaking at the 60th session of the General Assembly of the Central Bank of Iran, Hassan Rouhani said: “We know that the conditions of the country should be divided into at least two terms; Before 2019, our situation was relatively normal despite a lot of pressure, but at the same time we managed to cross this path to some extent, and the situation in the country was good.”

He added: “If we compare early 2015 to early 2018, economic growth, inflation, and employment were really good. In these three years, our inflation has been 10%, some years it has been single-digit. In 2017 and 2018, our inflation was in the single digits. Even in early 2019, we continued single-digit inflation.”

He went on to say: “We have reduced inflation to single-digit inflation. In terms of economic growth in 2016, we had the highest economic growth in the world, which was unprecedented in our history, but at the same time, we were facing a war.”

Rouhani said: “We got into an economic war, that is, a man who did not believe in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the law, the covenant, and human principles, became the US president, contrary to all international principles, laws, and obligations, he suddenly withdrew from the JCPOA and imposed severe sanctions on us, which was a special condition.”

Referring to the statistics presented in the Central Bank of Iran report, Rouhani said: “According to these statistics, we had an average of \$ 45 billion to \$ 46 billion in oil revenues in previous years, and even in 2011, our average oil revenue was \$ 112 billion, and in 2019, this revenue decreased and it decreased even more in 2020, and this is very important. Our average oil revenue fell to one-fifth, which affects imports and prices of the currency.

Calling the situation very strange, the president described the goal of the perpetrators of the war as to be the collapse of the Iranian economy, saying: “They did not succeed, and the Iranian economy continued its path, which of course is declining. Many investments were reduced, and the suffering of the people increased.”

Iran, Switzerland Seeking to Promote Police Diplomacy

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran’s International Police Chief Brigadier General Hadi Shirazi said in a meeting with the Swiss Ambassador to Tehran on Tuesday that police diplomacy and scientific-educational exchange in this area between Iran and Switzerland should improve.

General Shirazi touched on different dimensions of police diplomacy and Iran’s International Police activities and said that speeding up meeting demands of Iranian citizens abroad, especially those who live in member states of Interpol, is of high importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran.



He called upon follow-up of common police issues between Iran and Switzerland, including the illegal trade of medical equipment, food, counterfeit good, criminal cases and effectively addressing fugitive criminals, especially in organized crimes.

Offering a favorite assessment of communications between officials from both countries, Shirazi explained the international goals and missions of Iran’s International Police and proposals to improve interactions. Swiss Ambassador to Tehran Markus Leitner, in turn, said that he was ready to create opportunities and remove obstacles to achieve defined goals.

Iranian, Russian Labor Ministers Ink MoU in Common Areas

TEHRAN (MNA) – A joint cooperation action plan was signed between Iranian Ministry of Labor, Cooperatives and Social Welfare of Iran and Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation.

The joint cooperation agreement, which was inked by Iranian and Russian labor ministers via videoconference, Iranian Labor Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari and his Russian counterpart Anton Kotyakov emphasized on strengthening and bolstering bilateral relations between the two countries.

Fortunately, cooperation between Iran and Russia in the political and regional fields is at a good and satisfactory level and “we should try to develop economic cooperation between the two countries as well,” Iranian labor minister emphasized.

Referring to the previous meetings, Shariatmadari added, “I am very happy that the meeting was fruitful in February of this year and today we are witnessing the signing of an action plan between the two countries.”

Suitable ways have been provided for the two countries in the fields of cooperation on labor relations, social security, employment and dispatching workforce, he said, adding, “Implementation of provisions of joint action plan can play an important role in strengthening relations between the two countries.”

Minister of Labor and Social Protection of the Russian Federation Anton Kotyakov, for his part, stressed the need to develop and strengthen relations between the two countries in the common areas of cooperation and expressed hope that the upcoming meetings between the two ministries would be held in person.

By order of the President, The Operation of the Persian Gulf water Transfer Project To Chadormelo Began

The ceremony of exploiting the third part of the huge project of the Persian Gulf desalination and water transfer project to Charmloo industrial complex in Ardakan city was held in the presence of the president by video conference.



According to our correspondent, in this ceremony, which was held on the occasion of the water intake tanks of Chadormelo Industrial Complex, Engineer Naser Taghizadeh in a report explaining the important effects of this project in Yazd province and the industries of this region

said: First of all, full operation of Line 1 I congratulate the project of desalination and transfer of water of the Persian Gulf to the Supreme Leader and the people of Yazd province on one of the happiest days when he is the messenger of the great Prophet of Islam and the Eid al-Fitr. He also thanked the President, Minister Samat and the Parliament, especially the Chairman of the Economic Commission of the Parliament, who with their support accelerated the implementation of the large Persian Gulf water transfer project and the financing of resources.



Engineer Taghizadeh added in his report: Chadormelo Company, as one of the three major shareholders of the Persian Gulf water transfer super project and one of the main custodians of the project, has played an effective role in achieving this great achievement. Chadormelo Company, which has big plans and programs for development and exploration, needs to use sustainable water resources because water is one of the biggest challenges of industrial and mining companies. He considered the Persian Gulf water transfer project as an opportunity to solve problems and said: «With this goal, three large mining and industrial companies, Chadormelo, Gol Gohar and Sarcheshmeh Copper, made a big decision that was unprecedented in the history of this land.» The CEO of Chadormelo said: the third section of Line 1, which was inaugurated today, is about 370 km from Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex in Kerman to the steel industry in the Ardakan region of Yazd Province, and a branch will be extended to the Chadormelo Mineral Complex for 150 km. He specified: The flow of water transferred to this area is 2 cubic meters per second through pipes with a diameter of 1000 to 1200 mm and 7 reservoirs of 110 thousand cubic meters have been constructed for water storage, which will be a stable supplier of water for industries for years. Engineer Taghizadeh in continuation of the late Pashaei Pham; The current CEO of Sepah Bank, Mohammad Jalal Maab, the current CEO of Golgozar, Mahmoud Nourian, the current CEO of Chadormelo Company and Mr. Moradalizadeh, Bani Asadi and Dr. Yari, the CEO of the Persian Gulf Water Supply and Transmission Company, as brave people who took courage and took the first steps to This national project was appreciated and thanked. He also noted that many believed the project had no economic justification. But with the faith, belief and courage that existed among the founders of this project, this great risk was done, he added: «We should not forget that this huge project was realized at the height of sanctions.» The success of this project is not limited to the transfer of fresh water to the plateau of Iran and the east of the country, but also an important issue that is one of the achievements of this huge project and should be considered is the transfer of technology. Nearly 190 manufacturers and contractors have put their capabilities to work, and now we have the tremendous ability to make the parts we need, and God willing, we will also be able to

internalize the manufacture of freshwater membranes. It is running. Nasser Taghizadeh also said at the ceremony: «Today, I am very pleased that the second and third lines of this project with the support of the government and the President and Mr. Razm Hosseini who made a courageous decision to continue this great national project to transfer water to the Central Plateau and I thank the east of the country and we fully support it, because we believe that this capability has now been proven in the country that we can not only accelerate the development of the country by investing large profitable companies and the private sector, but also We can also take it off the shoulders of governments. This project proved in practice that it would be feasible and fruitful for the country if the system came to the conclusion that it would take development out of the state and transfer this important task to private companies.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:12
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:31
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:46
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:10

16. (Namely), those who say: "Our Lord! we have indeed believed: forgive us, then, our sins, and save us from the agony of the Fire";
17. Those who show patience, Firmness and self-control; who are true (in word and deed); who worship devoutly; who spend (in the way of Allah); and who pray for forgiveness in the early hours of the morning.
Surah 3. The Family Of 'Imran, The House Of 'Imran (16-17)

Foreign Envoys Urged to Reflect Iran's Realities

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization (CHTHO) Ali-Asghar Moonesan called on representatives of foreign countries in Iran to reflect the realities of the Islamic Republic of Iran correctly.

Speaking in a ceremony of "Nowruz 2021, Nowruz of Friendship" on Monday, held at the venue of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ali-Asghar Moonesan urged ambassadors and officials of missions of foreign countries residing in Tehran to convey the realities of the Islamic Republic of Iran as they are.

While appreciating the holding of this prestigious meeting and thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Commission for the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Iran, he said, "I would like to congratulate all people on the auspicious days of renewal and Iranian New Year (Nowruz). Nowruz means the renewal of nature, the days of dynamism and growth, the days of change and transformation away from evils and vulgarities, and proximity to the good."

Stating that Nowruz, as a cultural diplomacy, has the greatest cultural impact on the spread of peace and closeness of nations, he noted that the Ministry of Cultural



Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has made every effort to promote peace and better relations between nations, to focus on the common cultural roots and similarities and to avoid differences.

Moonesan called on all representatives of foreign countries in the Islamic Republic of Iran to help promote peace, prevent war and promote unity, amity and friendship between governments and nations."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the cruel sanctions imposed against the country over the past years and stated that Islamic Republic of Iran has been put under toughest sanctions since the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution and it is for three years that the country has been put under severe economic war.

Despite all sanctions and economic pressures, noble nation of Islamic Iran has proceeded their path more resilient than ever and managed to thwart all conspiracies waged by enemies against the country, he added.

Kuwait Denies Visas For New Iranian Tradesmen

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Iran-Kuwait Chamber of Commerce Hani Faisal says Kuwait does not issue visas for new Iranian businessmen who are eager to trade with this Arab state.

Speaking to ILNA, Faisal said comparing to other Persian Gulf States, Kuwait has the most amount of imports and the volume of its imports is up to \$40b while Iran's share of it is very insignificant and the volume of Iran's exports to Kuwait is around \$400m annually.

On the trade between Iran and Kuwait, he said Iran's trade with Kuwait is very slight and only those who have had trade with Kuwait from the past can do trade in Kuwait and it is impossible for the arrival of new Iranian tradesmen into Kuwait's market.

Faisal reiterated that Kuwait does not issue visa for new tradesman and the outbreak of COVID-19 also has worsened the condition and has had negative impact on the bilateral trade.

He reiterated that Iran's trade with Kuwait was low even in the pre-COVID-19 era and it has worsened after the outbreak. He further said that the bilateral trade of Iran and Kuwait was usually between \$600m to \$700m per year as the figure has declined to around \$500m this year. Faisal noted that the bilateral trade between both states despite proximity of southern Iranian ports to Kuwait should be more than the current amount and it needs an active economic diplomacy, adding despite some talks with Kuwaiti officials, no progress has been seen yet.

Faisal also pointed to the important role of Iraq in transit of goods between Iran and Kuwait, noting that Iraqis have not let it happen yet.

He also pointed to Iran's exports to Kuwait, saying that Iran's exports to Kuwait include construction materials, mineral materials, fertilizer and a container shipping line has been launched which let refrigerated goods be shipped to Kuwait and in return Iran has no imports from Kuwait.

On the presence of Israeli goods in Kuwait market, Faisal said if all Arab states normalize ties with Israel, Kuwait will be the last one and therefore, there are no Israeli goods in Kuwait.

Faisal went on to say that Kuwait market and shops miss Iranian goods as Iran's share of Kuwait's imports is very insignificant, reiterating that economic activists' demands is to launch a stronger economic diplomacy with Kuwait in order to boost trade with this country and the ground for presence of new Iranian tradesmen in Kuwait market could be provided.

Chadormalu Co., Ministry of Industry Sign MoU on Investment

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company (CMIC) and Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation during the ceremony of signing MoU on developing economic resistance investment with top five Iranian companies.

The CEO of Chadormalu Company Eng. Naser Taghizadeh, addressing the ceremony which was held with presence of governor generals and Majlis lawmakers, pointed to the future developmental projects of the company and said that on the whole, the



company is ready for investing in the developmental projects in the downstream units and processing industries worth 74,000b toman.

Minister of Industry, Mine and Industry Mr. Alireza Razm Hosseini, for his part, called this action very important and effective in line with developing national economy and creating job and economic boom.

It is noteworthy to say that the MoU was signed between the ministry and the top companies of the country including Chadormalu Co., Al-Mahdi Aluminum Complex, Sepahan Oil Company, Machine Sazi Arak Co. and Shirin Asal Food Industry Group.

The MoU includes 62 projects in the fields of mining, mining industries, machinery and refining industries aimed at creating investment security and encouraging the enterprises for developing and materializing the goals of the resistance economy by relying on the domestic capabilities.

This cooperation has been initiated by the ministry in line with materializing the goals of resistance economy and it is valued at \$6.1b.

Italian Embassy Hosts Final Event of the "8 1/2" Series

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - On Monday, a special debate on the current state of theatre and its future prospects was held at the Residence of the Italian Ambassador in Tehran, Giuseppe Perrone, marking the end of the exclusive series produced by the Italian Embassy in Tehran by the title "8 and 1/2 Theatre Clips. How Covid-19 Has Changed Our Lives" in cooperation with theatre companies "Instabili Vaganti" from Italy and "Don Quixote" from Iran.

The discussion, conducted by Iranian critic Maziar Fekri Ershad and streamed live on the Italian Embassy's Instagram profile @italyiran, was attended by actor Nicola Pianzola and director Anna Dora Dorno from "Instabili Vaganti". Dorno and Pianzola, who are creators of the series together with the Italian Embassy in Tehran, were virtually connected from Europe, while mime Danial Kheirikhah, director Ali Shams, Iranian soul of this joint production, and Mohammad Rahmadian, famous Iranian writer and director, all attended in presence.

Participants in the discussion, in full compliance with anti-COVID19 protocols, were also other Iranian renowned directors, scriptwriters, actors and theater critics.

In opening the debate, the Italian Ambassador in Tehran, Giuseppe Perrone, congratulated the two theatre companies on the quality and innovative character of their performances, while expressing hope that the performing arts, drawing from the lessons learned during the pandemics, may find new opportunities to flourish again and with renewed energy.

The series "8 and 1/2 Theatre Clips. How Covid-19 Has Changed Our Lives", launched in August 2020, originated from an idea by the Italian Embassy in Tehran and Instabili Vaganti aimed at combining Italian and Iranian theatre traditions and backgrounds in dealing with a global topic, such as the impact of the pandemic on people's lives and the process adaptations to a new concept of normalcy.

These ideas took the shape of a joint virtual cooperation which was meant to explore the change in daily habits brought by Covid19, such as wearing masks, being socially distant while at the same time being hyperconnected. Other features of the new global normalcy in pandemic times explored in the series episodes included travel restrictions, closure of theatres, disappearance of social events and people's reaction of bewilderment and disorientation as a result.

The event at the Italian Ambassador's Residence revealed that the pandemic, despite the devastating impact associated with the closure of theatres, paradoxically was also a learning experience, as it enabled local productions to be open to international cooperation and to a globalized public, to use new platforms of distribution, to find new sources of inspiration, opening up uncharted horizons for performing arts.

The eight episodes ("Beyond the Mirror", "The Night Shift", "Notes of Absence", "Don't Call Me a Hero", "Alone", "Flight Mode", "DiS-Connection", "A New Beginning"), as well as the final talk can all be viewed on the Italian Embassy in Tehran YouTube, Twitter and Instagram pages.



N. I. S. O. C.
NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 01-31-9780018

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
21	PARTS FOR "SOLAR" GAS TURBINE MODEL MARS 90/T12000,SER.NOS.MM95382/5	86

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 21,528 Euro 6,103,560,540 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material procurement management tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

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2000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
Sauna, J
green yard
pkg, & F.F

Parsian

(\$2600)
mountain view
Farmanieh Apt
300sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, Sauna, J
large balcony
Fully Furn

Jordan Apts
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180sq.m, 3bdrs (\$1800)
270sq.m, 4bdrs (\$2200)
both with S/p, S, J, F.F

(\$10000)
Velenjak bldg
5storey, 20bdrs
S/pool, Sauna, J
balcony, pkgs
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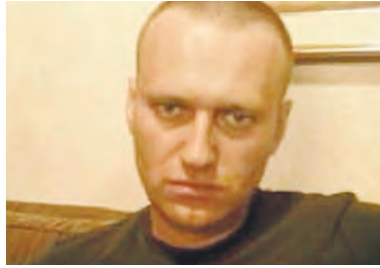
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Navalny at Strict Prison Camp Outside Moscow

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny is being held in a prison camp in Russia's Vladimir region northeast of Moscow known for its strict control of inmates, a message posted on the opposition politician's Instagram account confirmed on Monday.

Navalny's precise location had been unknown after his legal team said last week that he had been moved from the nearby Kolchugino jail and that they had not been told where he was being taken.

On Monday, Navalny confirmed he was fine and being held at the IK-2 corrective penal colony in the town of Pokrov, about 100 km (60 miles) east of Moscow.



Polish Freedom Icon Walesa Has Heart Surgery

WARSAW (Dispatches) - Polish freedom icon Lech Walesa on Monday said he was doing fine after undergoing heart surgery, a day after the ex-president issued an emotional video message about the upcoming operation.

"Thank you, everything went well. I feel good," the 77-year-old Nobel peace laureate said on his official Facebook page.

His secretary Marek Kaczmar told AFP earlier that "the boss is back in his hospital bed and is resting" after four and a half hours of surgery.



France, Germany, Italy Join Other Nations In Suspending AstraZeneca Vaccine



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany is the latest of several European countries to suspend the administration of AstraZeneca vaccines over reports of blood clotting.

France will stop administering AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine as a "precaution" pending a new assessment by the European Union's medicines regulator, French President Emmanuel Macron said Monday, following a similar announcement by the German and Italian governments.

"The decision has been made ... to suspend the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine as a precaution, hoping that we can resume its use quickly if the judgement of the EMA (European Medicines Agency) allows it," Macron said at a press conference, adding that an EMA announcement was expected Tuesday afternoon.

The German government said earlier on Monday that it was suspending the use of AstraZeneca's coronavirus vaccine over reports of dangerous blood clots in connection with the shot. Germany's health ministry said the decision was taken as a precaution and on the advice of the national vaccine regulator, the Paul Ehrlich Institute (PEI), which called for further investigation of the cases.

"After new reports of thromboses of the cerebral veins in connection with the vaccination in Germany and Europe, the PEI considers further investigations to be necessary," said the health ministry.

"The European Medicines Agency will decide whether and how the new findings will affect the approval of the vaccine," it added.

Shortly afterward, the Italian medicines authority said it was taking the same decision.

Several European countries - including Denmark, Norway, Ireland and the Netherlands - had already suspended usage of the shots, which were jointly developed with the University of Oxford. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Luxembourg have also put the vaccine on hold.

Both AstraZeneca and Oxford have said there is no link between their vaccine and blood clotting.

The company had said the 15 incidences of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and 22 events of pulmonary embolism reported among those given the vaccine was "much lower than would be expected to occur naturally in a general population".

In its statement, the health ministry said the reported blood clots involved cerebral veins, but did not specify where or when the incidents occurred.

The European Medicines Agency and the World Health Organization have also said that available data do not suggest the vaccine caused the clots and that people should continue to be immunized.

According to the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, Germany has received slightly over 3 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine and only used 1.35 million doses so far.

EU Launches Legal Case Against Britain Over Northern Ireland

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union launched legal action on Monday against Britain for unilaterally changing trading arrangements for Northern Ireland that Brussels says breach the Brexit divorce deal agreed with London last year.

The bloc has sent a letter of formal notice to kick-start an "infringement procedure", which could lead to fines being imposed by the EU's top court, although that could be at least a year off, leaving time for a solution to be found.

Britain's withdrawal agreement with the EU leaves the British-ruled province of Northern Ireland subject to some EU regulations, and requires checks on some goods arriving there from other parts of the United Kingdom.

Some of those checks are meant to start when a grace period expires at the end of March. The plans have already disrupted some supplies reaching supermarkets in Northern Ireland, and Britain says it intends to extend the grace period unilaterally until October 1.



Podemos Chief Leaving Spain Gov't to Run as Madrid Leader

MADRID (Dispatches) - Pablo Iglesias, leader of the hard-left party Podemos and a deputy prime minister in Spain's ruling coalition, said Monday he would resign from the government to run as Madrid's regional chief.

"I have informed (Prime Minister) Pedro Sanchez about my decision to leave my post in government when the campaign begins," he said in a video message posted on social media referring to elections scheduled for May 4.

The pony-tailed former professor of political science took up his position as one of four deputy prime ministers in January 2020, leading Podemos into the government for the first time since it was formed in 2014.

His surprise announcement came a day after a regional court confirmed the snap poll, which was called last week after the collapse of the region's ruling coalition, which groups the rightwing Popular Party (PP) and the centre-right Ciudadanos.

The decision to call early elections was taken by the PP's Isabel Diaz Ayuso, who resigned as Madrid's regional leader on Wednesday.

An outspoken rightwinger with relatively little political experience, she sprang the move after Ciudadanos filed a no-confidence motion against the PP in another region where they rule in coalition. Diaz Ayuso said she expected the same to happen with her.

The move has raised questions as to whether other regional rightwing tie-ups will also topple.

Diaz Ayuso, who has led fierce opposition to the central government's pandemic restrictions, has framed the snap polls as giving voters a choice "between Socialism and freedom".

"Communism or freedom," remarked opposition leader and PP chief Pablo Casado in a sardonic response on Twitter just minutes after Iglesias' announcement. Madrid's rightwing mayor Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida was even more derisive.

Security Forces Fire on Myanmar Protests

YANGON (Reuters) - Myanmar security forces shot dead six people taking part in pro-democracy demonstrators on Monday, media and witnesses said, and the military junta imposed martial law in districts of the main city Yangon which gave commanders wide powers to crush dissent.

Supporters of detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi took to the streets again despite the killing of dozens of protesters on Sunday in the bloodiest day since a military coup on Feb. 1 ignited mass demonstrations nationwide.

Marches took place on Monday in the second city Mandalay and in the central towns of Myingyan and Aunglan, where police opened fire, witnesses and media reported.

"One girl got shot in the head and a boy got shot in the face," an 18-year-old protester in Myingyan told Reuters by telephone. "I'm now hiding."

The Myanmar Now media outlet reported three people were killed in Myingyan and two in Aunglan, while a journalist in Mandalay said one person was shot dead there after a big protest had passed off peacefully.

The deaths bring the total toll from the protests to about 140, based on a tally by rights group Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) and the latest reports. A junta spokesman did not answer calls requesting comment.

State broadcaster MRTV reported martial law had been imposed in several districts of Yangon, Myanmar's commercial hub and former capital, and Myanmar Now said it had also been imposed in several parts of Mandalay.

The martial law announcement stated that military commanders in Yangon would take over administration of districts, including the courts, MRTV said.

The courts martial had the authority to hand down the death sentence or long prison terms for a range of offences. These included treason and dissent, obstructing the military or civil service, spreading untrue information, and crimes related to unlawful association.

Arson attacks on Sunday against 32 Chinese-invested factories in an industrial suburb of Yangon prompted China's strongest comments yet on the turmoil gripping its neighbour, where many people see Beijing as supportive of the coup.

China's Global Times newspaper said the factories were "vandalised in vicious attacks" that caused damage worth \$37 million and injuries to two Chinese employees. Its embassy urged Myanmar's generals to stop the violence.

"We wish that Myanmar's authorities can take further relevant and effective measures to guarantee the security of the lives and assets of Chinese companies and personnel," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said in Beijing.



UK Sanctions Syrian FM, Assad Allies



LONDON (Dispatches) - The United Kingdom has announced sanctions on six allies of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, including his foreign minister and close advisers, saying the move would send a "clear message that they must be held to account for their crimes".

The measures announced on Monday came 10 years, to the day, after peaceful protests against al-Assad as part of a series of uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa. Those demonstrations sparked a popular uprising, prompting a brutal crackdown from al-Assad which gave way to a multisided war that sucked in world powers.

"The Assad regime has subjected the Syrian people to a decade of brutality for the temerity of demanding peaceful reform," UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said in a statement.

"We are holding six more individuals from the regime to account for their wholesale assault on the very citizens they should be protecting."

Those sanctioned by the UK include Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad, al-Assad adviser Luna al-Shibl, financier Yassar Ibrahim, businessman Muhammad Bara' Al-Qatirji, Republican Guard Commander Malik Aliaa and Army Major Zaid Salah. The measures are the first enacted against Syria's leadership, which is backed by Russia and Iran, under the UK's post-Brexit independent sanctions policy.

They follow 353 sanctions already being rolled over from European Union sanction listings. The UK, which formally left the EU in January 2020, previously imposed sanctions through the bloc. Brussels, which began placing sanctions on Syrian authorities in 2011 over their brutal repression of the anti-government protests, added Mekdad to its sanctions list in January.

The UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said it was also working through the United Nations Security Council to push Syria "to engage meaningfully" in a UN-led peace process and constitutional committee talks in Geneva. It urged al-Assad's government to release those held in arbitrary detention, and allow unhindered aid access throughout the country, the FCDO said.

COVID-19 Claims 97 Lives in Past 24 Hours

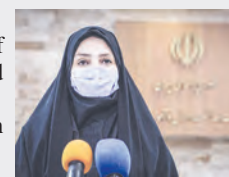
TEHRAN (IRNA) - Some 97 more Iranians have died from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours bringing the total deaths to 61,427, Iran's Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Tuesday.

Some 8,380 new cases of infection with the COVID-19 were identified over the past 24 hours, 889 of whom were

hospitalized, Lari said.

She noted that 1,506,360 patients out of a total of 1,763,313 infected people have recovered or been discharged from the hospitals.

Some 3,848 other COVID-19 patients are in critical condition and being treated in intensive care units, the spokeswoman said.



"Mank" Leads Oscars Nominations in Record Year for Women

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - "Mank," David Fincher's black-and-white ode to "Citizen Kane," comfortably led this year's Oscars nominations Monday with 10 nods including for best picture and best director, as female filmmakers smashed Academy records.

The Netflix reimagining of Hollywood's Golden Age was far ahead of the competition following the live-streamed announcement, which saw six films receive six nominations apiece including US road movie "Nomadland" and anti-Vietnam War courtroom drama "The Trial of the Chicago 7."

In a year that saw a record 70 women nominated, there were directing nods for Chloe Zhao ("Nomadland") and Emerald Fennell ("Promising Young Woman") -- the first year the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has ever selected multiple women.

The nominations narrow the field to the final hopefuls for April 25, the latest-ever date for Hollywood's award season-capping spectacle which has been transformed and delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Zhao is the first woman of color ever nominated as director, while Aaron Sorkin ("Chicago 7") had to settle for a screenplay nomination after missing out to the likes of Fincher and Danish director Thomas Vinterberg ("Another Round.")

The Oscar nominations come two weeks after a Golden Globes that was criticized for failing to nominate films featuring Black casts, but the Academy awarded six nods to civil rights dramas "Judas and the Black Messiah," including supporting actors Daniel Kaluuya and Lakeith Stanfield.

The other films tied in second with six nominations were Korean-American immigrant drama "Minari," harrowing dementia chronicle "The Father" -- which saw former winner Anthony Hopkins bag a sixth career acting nod -- and "Sound of Metal," about a rock drummer who loses his hearing.

Ahead of the nominations announcement, Academy president David Rubin confirmed this year's Oscars would be broadcast from Los Angeles' cavernous Union Station as well as its traditional Dolby Theatre home in Hollywood.

Celebrity couple Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas then read out the nominees in a live-stream from London. No streaming film has ever won the Academy's most prestigious prize -- best picture.

But with most U.S. movie theaters closed all year due to Covid, several big-screen studio blockbusters skipped their 2020 releases entirely, leaving an eclectic field of hopefuls that many experts predict will favor the likes of Netflix and Amazon Prime.

With Hollywood's private screening rooms and glitzy film campaign events shuttered, even Oscar voters have been forced to watch nearly all the 366 contenders via the Academy's own online streaming platform.

"We are almost used to streaming now," said one member of the Academy, which has traditionally championed the big-screen experience.

"It's quite incredible what can happen within a year. None of us have really been in a movie theater."

Netflix led the nominations field Monday, also picking up multiple nods with 1920s blues drama "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," which saw Chadwick Boseman land a rare posthumous best actor nomination following his death from cancer last August.

But Boseman missed out on a second, supporting acting nod for Spike Lee's "Da 5 Bloods," also from Netflix, which only earned a single nomination for original score.



Amazon Prime also had three nominations for another civil rights-themed movie, "One Night in Miami," and two more for comedy sequel "Borat Subsequent Moviefilm."

Despite their impressive nominations showing, the streamers will still need to get past presumed best picture frontrunner "Nomadland," which won top trophies at the prestigious Venice and Toronto festivals, and has swept early award season prizes at the Golden Globes and Critics Choice Awards.

The intimate US road movie comes from Searchlight -- the arthouse distributor now owned by Disney which has steered the likes of "The Shape of Water" and "Birdman" to recent Oscars glory -- and its campaign has featured a number of drive-in screenings. "I would say 'Nomadland' right now seems to be the de facto front runner," said the Academy member.

Zhao is the first woman to receive four nominations in a single year, earning nods for directing, editing, screenplay and as a producer in the best picture category.

With the Oscars locations now confirmed, precise details of the ceremony will be unveiled in the coming weeks, depending on local Covid restrictions which have begun to ease in Los Angeles after a brutal winter Covid-19 spike.

Los Angeles is set to start reopening movie theaters at limited capacity this week. "Contagion" director Steven Soderbergh will produce this year's pandemic-struck Oscars, which had a 50-year high number of potential contenders after eligibility criteria was relaxed to admit more streaming titles, and movies released in early 2021.

The large field means few awards watchers have placed any confident bets on the leading acting contenders, with Variety film awards editor Clayton Davis noting that there are many "areas of fluidity."

"Borat" co-star Maria Bakalova, who was nominated Monday, has become "a darling of this year's quarantine campaign trail," he wrote.

Frances McDormand ("Nomadland") and Viola Davis ("Ma Rainey") were picked alongside Carey Mulligan for "Promising Young Woman" and Andra Day for "The United States vs Billie Holiday."

Along with Boseman and Hopkins, the lead actor category was rounded out by Riz Ahmed ("Sound of Metal"), Gary Oldman ("Mank") and Steven Yeun ("Minari.")

UK's Economic Recovery May Be Quicker Than Forecast

LONDON (Dispatches) - Britain's economic prospects are improving as a result of the successful vaccine program and could perform more strongly than expected over the coming months, the governor of the Bank of England has said.

Andrew Bailey said that he now saw "upside risks" to the Bank's growth forecasts but warned there was still a risk that new Covid-19 variants would derail recovery.

The governor, who has been in the job for a year, said rising financial market interest rates were a reflection of growing optimism in the City that the UK was at last emerging from the lockdowns of the past year.

"We have seen some increase in interest rates over the last month or so, as have other countries. My assessment so far is that that is consistent, I think, with the change in the economic outlook," Bailey told BBC Radio 4's Today program. Asked what sort of recovery the UK could expect, he said: "I'm now more positive, but with a large dose of caution." The "huge" success of the vaccine programme meant the pandemic was now in retreat and output should return to its pre-pandemic level by the end of the year, Bailey continued. "That's good news, but let's be realistic. It's not more than getting back to where we were pre-Covid."

In his first public comments since last week's figures showed the economy contracted by 2.9% in January, Bailey said the impact of restrictions appeared to be lessening over time as businesses learned how to adapt.

But he added that the impact of Covid-19 had been huge and unequal. It had been especially tough on low-paid people, who included a disproportionate number of women and workers from minority ethnic backgrounds.

Bailey's comments came as a monthly poll by Ipsos Mori suggested the public was the most optimistic about the economic outlook for the UK since 2015, with 43% of those polled saying they thought the economy would improve over the next 12 months, compared with 41% who thought the opposite. That lifted Ipsos Mori's economic optimism index to +2, up from -31 in February, the highest since 2015 and the biggest jump since the polling began more than 40 years ago.

The Bank of England's nine-strong monetary policy committee (MPC) is expected to leave interest rates unchanged at 0.1% when it meets later this week.

A century of ups and downs

Dr. Mohammad Reza Kamali Veteran, selfless, expert on political and economic issues

In the last century, societies have become bipolar and multipolar due to changes in political systems and the shifting of the world's border lines as a result of the two world wars, and today we see countries divided into three categories: developed, developing and backward, or the world. Third, they are divided and in all these years the peripheral countries have been colonized by the focal countries, although with the growth of technology and the development of industrial agriculture, some countries have been able to reduce their distance from developed countries in terms of urbanization and at least Provide facilities and services to their citizens, but because the world has gone through 4 industrial revolutions so far, developed countries are still ahead of other countries due to the knowledge they have, and this has led to exploitation in the world. Although its face has changed.

Because in the past year with the outbreak of coronavirus, although the risk of the disease was the same in all countries and even developed countries were on the verge of coronary heart disease due to their older population, but due to the use of modern medical equipment and technologies Manage the disease, and now the corona vaccine has become a tool to show their strength and superiority, playing with the lives of millions of people in backward countries to earn more money.

Also, in the last half century, although Iran has faced the experience of imposed war and sanctions problems, but thanks to the Islamic management that it has implemented all these years, it has been able to move towards independence and self-sufficiency, and these days we see the production of several vaccines. The corona is on the agenda in the country and is currently undergoing testing, and according to officials, it will be available to the public en masse by the summer of 1400, and this shows the country's growing movement towards independence and development.

Of course, it is no secret that during the years of sanctions, the global arrogance of many people in the lower deciles of society put economic pressure and may have consequences for years due to the economic gap in society and lead to anomalies and harms. But certainly the resistance and patience of the Iranian people during these years is commendable.

Therefore, it should not be ignored that despite the courage and efforts of the Iranian people, they did not deserve to be in such long queues to supply basic goods due to the mismanagement of some government officials, corruption, rent, etc.

Unfortunately, for many years, the multiplier difference between the prices of products from production to the consumer has been one of the major problems of the fruit and vegetable market, which has caused great losses to producers and consumers due to the lack of transparency in the operation of regulatory bodies. In this regard, in addition to sanctions on the method of monitoring and lack of transparency in the chain of connection of production to distribution should be sought.

Therefore, it seems that considering that we are facing the elections of 1400, people who are not only qualified enough to have the necessary expertise to be able to find a cure for the sick economy of the country and the development path of Iran should be candidates. Follow Islam more firmly so that we can fill the economic vacuum that has emerged in recent years and somehow implement the recommendations of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution in the second step of the revolution.

At the end of the holy days of the month of Shab-an, the month of divine mercy and blessing, the most auspicious days for the wedding of the proud Revolutionary Guards and veterans of Islamic Iran, as well as the beginning of the new century

I congratulate the dear people of Iran and also my Iranian compatriots abroad, especially the Iranians of Belarus and the Iranians living in England, on the «ancient Nowruz» and I ask God Almighty for health, health and progress. And I hope it will be a good and prosperous year for the production of the country and a year of improving the livelihood and economy of the dear people of my country.



Last Editorial...

FROM PAGE 1

Now with such a climate, if we want to look at our future era, which may happen in futures with, political glasses, we should take back a little and review the set seats for materialization of our goals in the future. Last year, Coronavirus pandemic was the lead story in the news and among the events in the world and it seemed that the next year would also be dominated by talks on health management and dealing with this pandemic and its vaccine, and ultimately on any events related to it. If I want to look at the highlights of events which happened last year, I will not miss the expulsion of Donald Trump from the White House. Of course I acknowledge this point that Joe Biden who has replaced Trump in the White House is suffering from the "doubt in making decision" disease and it is likely that he will neither be able to turn his back to the Zionists nor can ignore the blessings of the JCPOA and closeness to Europe. After these events, I should point to Chin's leap for the next ten years.

Trump in his last year in office behaved in a way that it fully convinced the Chinese that in a logical range of time they should withdraw some part of their roughly \$3,000b forex reserves from the U.S. and invest in the West Asia and Africa. It seems this move has kicked off and it goes slowly but prudently towards its materialization.

World people passed the last year without physical presence of Martyr Haj Qasem Soleimani. He was the one who routed the vicious calamity for humanity, namely, the Daesh group. Last year and just one day before the start of the spring, IRGC's air defense in a shocking blow to the U.S. shot down the 200m-dollar U.S. advanced drone over the Persian Gulf; a surveillance drone which had intruded into Iran's airspace but was targeted by the "Khordad 3" air defense system of IRGC Aerospace Force and being shot down.

This act by the IRGC shocked all military experts worldwide because the drone was a radar-evading one and it is considered as one of the most long-range operational flying object. The spring of the world of politics regardless of the devastating floods was accompanied with the actions of the statesmen in the White House which in their own fancy and rudely designated IRGC a terrorist group; an action which was rapidly faced a reaction in the country, and from Majlis to the government and other bodies as well as the public in the country came to the full support of the IRGC in a way that the pyramid shape Majlis building in its first session after the Nowruz (New Year) holidays became green and all lawmakers by wearing IRGC's green uniform attended the session. They even signed a double urgency motion and designated terrorists all U.S. active security and intelligence forces in the West Asia. In those days that the IRGC faced the U.S. sanctions, with the decree of the Supreme Leader Brigadier General Hossein Salami was appointed as the new commander chief of the IRGC.

But I cannot help talking about the JCPOA at the end of this article in last days of the 14th century. 1399 passed with the government's dreams, optimism of the west-believers in Iran and with wasting time through void hopes. The begging bowl reached the empty and contentless people whose damage had special impact on the poor people of our country and it did not turn into getting a lesson for the western-oriented minds with colorful Iranian appearance that the West just thinks of its own interests even in the framework of immorality, and human rights is a big, big lie.

Home-Made COVID-19...

FROM PAGE 1

Major-General Salami said that the health defenders were at the forefront of the most difficult incident, but stood honestly and resisted.

Salami added that the Iranian Islamic system and nation have lived in the atmosphere of the possibility of war with Iran's enemies for the past two years, but the resistance of health defenders has strengthened the Islamic system and the IRGC. "Baqiyatallah University of Medical Sciences is the brand of the Islamic Revolution and it should be the most advanced university of medical sciences in the world in all fields, and this goal is achievable," he highlighted.

Occupying U.S...

FROM PAGE 1

Takht-Ravanchi also strongly condemned frequent attacks by US forces and Israel in Iraq and Syria, noting that such illegal measures only worsen the situation in an already tense region.

"The Syrian crisis has no military solution and the sole way to end it would be a peaceful one in total conformity to principles of the international law and articles of the Charter of the United Nations," he said.

Iran's envoy also called on the international community to put an end to Israel's military adventurism in the region.

Uncapped Barca Midfielder Pedri Called Up for Spain

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona midfielder Pedri was called up to the Spain squad for the first time on Monday ahead of World Cup qualifiers against Greece, Georgia and Kosovo.

The 18-year-old Pedri has been one of the stars of the season in La Liga after establishing himself as a key creator in Barca's midfield.

Likened to former Spain and Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta, Pedri will be pushing for a place in Luis Enrique's starting line-up at this summer's European Championships.

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Muguruza Up to 13th in the World

MADRID (Dispatches) - Spain's Garbine Muguruza rose three places to 13th in the WTA rankings on Monday after winning the Dubai Open at the weekend.

Former French Open and Wimbledon champion Muguruza ended a two-year title drought on Saturday by beating unseeded Czech Barbora Krejickova.

Australian Ashleigh Barty remains top but American Jennifer Barty, Belarusian Victoria Azarenka and Pole Iga Swiatek drop one spot.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17, 2021

Curry Lifts Warriors Rookie Poku Powers Thunder

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Golden State's Stephen Curry, seen here during the NBA All-Star Game, put up 32 points on his 33rd birthday to lead the Warriors to a 131-119 NBA victory over the Utah Jazz

Golden State star Stephen Curry celebrated his 33rd birthday Sunday with a 32-point performance that propelled the Warriors to a 131-119 victory over the NBA-leading Utah Jazz and snapped a four-game skid.

Curry got off to a sizzling start, connecting on 63 percent of his shots in a 14-point first quarter in which the Warriors seized a lead they wouldn't relinquish.

He finished 10-of-20 from the field with six three-pointers.

"It's like that ageing wine, right?" Curry said. "Keep it in the cellar and watch it get stronger and better, so I'm just enjoying the ride."

Andrew Wiggins added 28 points and Draymond Green put up a triple-double of 11 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists for the Warriors, who bounced back from a 130-104 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday in which Curry made just one three-pointer.

The Warriors hadn't won since February 26 -- before the NBA's All-Star break.

They also reversed their fortunes against a Jazz team that had beaten them five straight times.

"Our whole team played amazing tonight," Curry said. "We took it personally to come out and play aggressive, focused defence. Everybody contributed."

In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 30 points and Serbian rookie Aleksej Pokusevski added a career-high 23 as the Thunder beat the Memphis Grizzlies 128-122 despite having just nine available players.

Ramos Returns Amid Doubts over Future

MADRID (Dispatches) - Sergio Ramos returned for Real Madrid on Saturday but the bigger question is whether he is back for good.

After two months out with a knee injury, Ramos played an hour in Madrid's win over Elche, with the plan to blow away the cobwebs ready for a start against Atalanta.

His availability should be a significant boost for Madrid, who have a 1-0 advantage from last month's first leg in Italy and will be confident of being Spain's first, and perhaps only, survivor in the tournament's quarter-finals.

And yet Ramos's reemergence has been pinpointed less as a boost to his team than a bolstering of his case to stay, every week he was absent another blow to his hope for a contract extension beyond the summer.

Madrid president Florentino Perez has reportedly offered Ramos a two-year deal with a 10 per cent pay cut or a second option, the continuation of his current wages but for only one more year.

Ramos wants two more years on the same wages, with the possibility to add a third.

"There is a lot of uncertainty," Ramos said on Thursday.

"I would like to be able to say something but there is nothing new. I'm only thinking about coming back from injury and to finish the season in the best possible way. There is nothing new about the renewal."

Ramos' pedigree is not in doubt given he is probably the greatest defender of the modern era, certainly the most successful, and while there have been lapses in recent years, his contribution to Real Madrid is still considerable.

When they marched to the La Liga title last season, Ramos was their most important player.

"I hope the Ramos thing will be fixed as soon as possible," Zinedine Zidane said last week.



LeBron James, when he was 18, to make five three-pointers in a game.

Elsewhere, the Philadelphia 76ers had Aussie guard Ben Simmons back in action for the first time since a positive coronavirus test forced him out of the All-Star Game in a 134-99 beat-down of the San Antonio Spurs.

Despite the absence of Joel Embiid, who suffered a bone bruise in his knee in an awkward landing from a dunk on Friday, the Sixers dominated in their fifth straight win, improving their Eastern Conference-leading record to 27-12.

The Sixers were relieved the injury wasn't worse than first feared.

Tobias Harris led Philadelphia with 23 points. Seth Curry added 21, Danny Green had 16 and Simmons chipped in 14.

Up by eight at half-time, the 76ers effectively put the game out of reach with 46 points in the third quarter. They pushed their lead to as many as 42 in a fourth period as the starters for both teams were pulled.

Some 3,000 spectators, the first allowed in Philly's arena since the pandemic began, were on hand to enjoy the romp.

In Minneapolis, rookie Anthony Edwards scored a career-high 34 points to lift the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 114-112 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Edwards drained a half-dozen threes and Ricky Rubio finished with 15 points and seven assists for Minnesota, who ended a seven-game losing streak. Edwards previous career high was 28 points against the Los Angeles Lakers in February.

Damian Lillard finished with 38 points for the Trail Blazers, who were seeking their first season sweep of Minnesota since the 2012-13 season. Portland lost for just the second time in their last six games.

In the late game, Zion Williamson scored a team-high 27 points as the New Orleans Pelicans rebounded from a one-sided loss on Friday to dominated the Los Angeles Clippers 135-115 in New Orleans.

Murray Granted Wild Card for Miami Open

LONDON (Reuters) - Former champion Andy Murray has been granted a wild card for this month's Miami Open, tournament organizers said on Monday.

The British ex-world number one, who has fallen to 116 in the rankings after long injury lay-offs because of hip surgeries, is a two-time Miami Open champion having won the title in 2009 and 2013.

"It is exciting to see Andy back in Miami," Miami Open Tournament Director and former player James Blake said in a news release.

"As someone who has had to battle back from injury during his career, I understand and respect all the hard work Andy has put in to get back on tour."

Murray, a three-times Grand Slam champion, has had a stop-start year after he was unable to fly to the Australian Open after testing positive for COVID-19.

The 33-year-old Briton's last tournament was the Rotterdam Open where he was beaten by Russian Andrey Rublev two weeks ago. He then decided to sit out this week's Dubai Championships after his wife gave birth to their fourth child.

The Miami Open, which will feature 74 of the top 77 ranked men, is scheduled to run from March 22-April 4.



Dzumhur Suffers Default After Refusing to Play Over Line Call



LONDON (Dispatches) - Damir Dzumhur was defaulted from his second qualifying round match in the ATP 500 event at Acapulco after the Bosnian walked off the court in anger over a line call on Sunday.

Dzumhur, who reached a career-high ranking of 23rd in 2018, lost his cool when a forehand from his Dutch opponent Botic van de Zandschulp was called in by the line judge with the 28-year-old serving at 5-5, 40-40 in the opening set.

Looking in disbelief Dzumhur dropped his racquet and approached the chair umpire for

an overrule but to no avail. He subsequently lost the service game to trail 6-5.

The call seemed to have infuriated Dzumhur as he continued remonstrating with the chair umpire during the change of ends and received a code violation for unsportsmanlike conduct.

He returned to court and won the first point on his opponent's serve with a crosscourt forehand winner but then again seemed to say something to the umpire that earned him a point penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The world number 125 then walked off the court, threw his racquet on his bag and touched fists with Van de Zandschulp signalling his intention to not continue playing.

The tournament supervisor had a discussion with Dzumhur, who continued to speak angrily with the chair umpire as his opponent walked away.

Guardiola Quashes Zinchenko Quadruple Talk



LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola moved quickly to quash talk of a historic quadruple on Monday -- after one of his own players said they were capable of a clean sweep of trophies.

City face Borussia Moenchengladbach in the second leg of their Champions League last-16 tie in Budapest, well placed to progress after winning the first leg 2-0.

The match was switched from the Etihad Stadium to the Puskas Arena, which also hosted the first leg, due to coronavirus travel restrictions.

City look almost certain to win a third Premier League title in four seasons, face Everton in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Saturday and play Tottenham in the final of the League Cup in April.

Defender Oleksandr Zinchenko said at the eve-of-match press conference that he could see "hungry eyes" in the City squad as they chase all four trophies.

"Of course everything is possible," said the Ukrainian. "We have an unbelievable squad, the best players in the world. Definitely, why not?"

"Inside the dressing room or inside the team I can see hungry eyes. Everyone is so hungry for the titles. That's what we want."

This was immediately knocked down by Guardiola, who urged the left-back to focus on the job at hand when it was his turn to address the media.

"I am older than Mr Zinchenko," said the City boss. "I have more experience and I am not agreeing with him."

"Zinchenko only has to be worried about a good game tomorrow and going through. This is the only way."

"Four titles has never happened before and I don't think it will happen this season with the situation," he added.

Son's Injury Down to Packed Schedule



LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min is set for a spell on the sidelines after limping off in the first half of Sunday's 2-1 Premier League defeat at Arsenal and manager Jose Mourinho said the injury is a result of playing too many games.

The 28-year-old South Korean pulled up with what looked to be a hamstring issue after chasing a pass and was replaced by Erik Lamela, who netted the opener for Spurs after 33 minutes.

Martin Odegaard and Alexandre Lacazette hit back for Arsenal to seal the win.

"I don't know how long it is. It's muscular. Muscular is usually not easy," Mourinho told reporters, adding that the problem was caused by playing too much.

Son has started all 28 of Spurs' league matches this season, scoring 13 goals. He also featured in nine Europa League matches and four domestic Cup game.

"He's normally a guy who recovers quickly. It's (because of) an accumulation of matches. In the Europa League, I gave him 30 minutes rest in the last match, but it's still 60 minutes," Mourinho added.

"And when you're in so many competitions, some players they have more minutes than others, which is normal, something that can happen."

Defeat left Mourinho's side in seventh place with 45 points, six behind Chelsea in fourth -- the final Champions League qualification spot.

Tottenham travel to Dinamo Zagreb in the Europa League last-16 second leg on Thursday before visiting Aston Villa in the league on Sunday.